

laboriously from dizzy window ledges to coping, while sometimes even fish leaping are mould

laboriously from dizzy window ledges to coping, while sometimes an awful, despairing cry would herald the desperate leap which ended in death. Four times during the early stage of the fire people took the perilous chance. They were two women and two men, and to each it brought instantaneous death. One woman, as she leaped, struck a policeman, who was carrying another woman down a ladder, and all came to the ground together. The woman who was being carried by the policeman sustained no severe injuries, nor did the policeman. But the other woman struck on her head and did not stir.

CARE FOR THE WOUNDED.

As fast as the injured people came down the ladders or ropes they were bundled into ambulances and driven to a hospital. Many were taken to a drugstore. No record was kept of them, and it was almost impossible to say how many had been thus saved. Those who escaped without injury, for the greater part, avoided observation as they

for a greater part, avoided useful work, and
 they could, and it would be impossible
 to tell just how many guests escaped, and how
 many were killed. Many of the bodies of the
 latter. Many of the guests registered under
 fictitious names, and are not desirous of having
 their friends know that they were in the hotel.
 They will probably, therefore, not come forward
 to say that they are safe. On Satur-
 day nights particularly the Hotel Royal
 is full of such transient guests. The first
 estimate was that there had been 165 guests in
 the hotel. Afterward this estimate was reduced,
 and in an interview yesterday afternoon with Fire
 Marshal Mitchell, Mr. Meares, the proprietor of
 the Hotel Royal, said that there were 133 per-
 sons in it at the time of the fire. That the hotel
 was full, for Mr. Meares said yesterday
 that out of the 165 guests in the hotel only four
 were unoccupied at 1 a. m. To those who saw
 how the building blazed up from top to bottom
 in less than half an hour, enveloping itself in
 a ring of fire, it seemed incredible that many should
 have escaped with their lives, and many think
 that under the mass of ruins and rubbish there
 are many dead people.

IT BURNED LIKE MATCHES.

That the place was a trap was apparent from the way in which the hotel burned down in less than two hours, like a box of matches which suddenly take fire. As to the facilities for escaping from the hotel in such cases as this, Mr. Meares said that the hotel was fully supplied with iron fire-escapes in the rear. The rooms fronting Sixth-ave. and Fortieth-st. were supplied with ropes, according to his statement. That there were some ropes at least in the building is shown by the fact that there is a long rope hanging out of a second-story window from that part of the hotel which was situated over the bar in Sixth-ave. But on the other hand, from a window in the fourth story of the same part of the building there hangs a charred piece of what was evidently a bedsheet slipped into a rope. This hardly suggests that room, at least, had been supplied with rope. One of the guests who escaped also said that in his room there was no rope, and other guests said that the ropes were too short.

The fire burned till about 5 a. m., and went out just when dawn began to break.

Rarely has fiercer blaze been seen in this city. At 3:30 o'clock in the morning there was left of the hotel only the outer shell. Inside of it uncontrollable flames raged, which did not cease their work till everything that was combustible had been destroyed. Through the gaping window openings could be seen red glowing timbers and joists, writhing and falling, while at times the flames burst from every opening from top to bottom of the great building, till it was enveloped in a wreath of dancing fire. Only occasionally did clouds of smoke obscure the building. During the greater part of the time the burning hotel shone in a great glare of light, reflected on the sky for miles around. The roar of the fire was broken at short intervals by the sudden crash of falling floors or walls, and now and then by muffled reports like explosions.

One such report was heard at 4 o'clock, and following it there came a cry of fear from the watching multitude, for the north wall, fronting on Fortieth-st., which had been swaying for some time, toppled forward and thundered down into the street, seemingly right on top of the many firemen who were playing streams of water into the blazing mass. As soon as the wall fell a thick, black cloud of smoke rose and hid everything. For a while the crowd waited in suspense, but when the smoke cleared away a cheer arose from the watchers as it was discovered that the firemen had saved.

As the fire spread, the flames seemed to rage more fiercely than ever. The blazing square was then a glowing furnace, on which the many streams of water which were poured from all sides seemed to have not the slightest effect. On the Sixth-avenue side the waterworks spouted its unceasing stream into the upper stories, from the streets the many lines of hose poured water into every available place, yet the fire seemed as fierce as ever.

Half an hour after the Fortieth-st. wall had fallen the wall at the corner of that street and Sixth-ave. fell inward. Again there arose thick smoke, followed by fiercer flames. The streets for blocks around were covered thickly with ice, from the torrents of water, and the hose and walls gleamed fantastically in the flaring light.

CROWDS HURRY TO THE SCENE.

The rattling and clanging and heavy thumping of the engines, the great light in the sky and the noise and shouting of firemen and policemen attracted an immense crowd to the spot. It seemed as if the alarm had hardly been sent out before the streets leading to the scene became alive with people. The news of the great fire spread rapidly, and horse cars, elevated trains and cabs brought spectators from all parts of the

Inspector Steers at once made preparations for handling a big crowd, and the fire-lines were established at Thirty-ninth-st. and Forty-first-st. One hundred and fifty policemen from the Nineteenth Precinct enforced order and kept the streets clear. Bryant Park, which is opposite the hotel, was a mass of faces, all illumined by the flames. Blown along slowly by the gentle south wind, a great canopy of sparks drifted and hung high in the air over the park. So thickly crowded were they that they hid the sky, and to one looking upward it seemed a blazing curtain spread over-

A elevated railroad engineer did good and sensible work when the fire started. He ran an upbound Sixth Avenue Elevated Railroad train which was approaching the Forty-second-st. station shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Ahead he saw the pile of the Hotel Royal strangely alighted up. Quickly pulling open the valve of the whistle he let its shrill screams sound the alarm to those who were sleeping in the house.

RESCUING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
Emil Lang and George W. Hazen, employed at the Gerlach apartment-house, No. 55 West Twenty-seventh-st., were on their way home when the fire broke out, and both started in to help in the work of rescue. Lang, who said that he lived at No. 342 East Forty-second-st., climbed a ladder to the first story and brought a woman down. He then went back, this time to the second story, and rescued two children between seven

and ten years old. Then he got a woman, and as he was taking her down the ladder a human form was shot downward through the smoke. It was a man, who had jumped from above. His body struck a fireman, without injuring the latter severely, and then struck the ground. The man was instantly killed.

When Mr. Hazen came along he saw a woman sitting on a window-sill, wreathed round with

ire, as it seemed. She was fanning her face with her hand to keep the smoke out of her eyes, and at last screamed in an agonized tone: "I can't stand it any longer." Despite the frenzied appeals from the spectators to "stay there, stay there: we will bring ladders," she was preparing to jump.